Decline in procurement of wheat and Rice

1403. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that procurement of wheat and rice during the 1991-92 marketing season in the country has shown a substantial decrease;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to meet the rising demands of the Public Distribution System in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOOOI) : (a) Yes, Sir. During 1991-92 Rabi marketing season, a quantity of 77.52 lakh tonnes of wheat was procured ns against 110.65 lakh tonnes during 1990-91 season. The procurement of rice during 1991-92 marketing is still in progress and will continue upto September, 1992. As on 4th May, 1992, a quantity of 96.15 lakh tonnes of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) has been procured as compared with 118.76 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period of 1990-91.

(b) The reasons for low procurement of wheat and rice during Rabi/Kharif 1991-92 are as under :—

WHEAT : Wheat is procured on voluntary basis as a minimum support price operation, the farmer being free to sell elsewhere if he gets a price better than the minimum support price. During 1991-92, market arrivals were low and there was comparatively higher percentage of purchase by private trade due to higher market prices.

RICE : Due to less and scanty rain fall during monsoon season of 1990-91 and consequent loss to kharif production to some extent, market arrivals were less.

(c) In order to improve the stock position in the Central Pool, all possible steps like payment of incentive bonus to farmers by Central as well as State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Madhy; Pradesh, opening of adequate number o purchase centres to cover more areas, re ducing stock limits etc. are being takei to maximise the procurement of wheat an,c strict enforcement of levy order for pro curement of levy rice from millers/dealers

Delivery of levy sugar

1404. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 204 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nc November, 1991 and state;

(a) whether Government have received the report, of Government of Maharashtn in the matter of irregularities in the deli very of levy sugar ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereo and the action taken by Governmen thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TH1 MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUT GOGOI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report of the Government o Maharashtra is under examination.

Impurities in foodgrains supplied throug PDS

1405. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Wi the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention ha been drawn to the press report publishe in the Indian Express of 11th April, 199 about impurities to the extent of 49.5 pe cent in the foodgrains supplied throug the public distribution system ;

(b) if so, what are the details in th regard ;

(c) what steps Government have take to ensure strict quality control at th time of procurement of grains ; and

(d) what are the details of instruction issued to State Governments in this re gard ?